REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims will be 1, 4 to 8 and 10 to 19.

In the Official Action, the allowance of claims 1, 4 to 8, 10 to 14 and 19 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 15 to 18 stand withdrawn, however, it is stated that if claims 15 to 18 were amended to include all of the limitations of the allowable product claims, rejoinder with the allowed product claims would occur.

In reply, all of the features of the allowed product claims are, in fact, present in the withdrawn claims. In this regard, please note that all of claims 15 to 18 ultimately depend on allowed claim 1. In any event, claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form and the remaining claims are dependent thereon.

For the foregoing reasons, rejoinder of claims 15 to 18 with the allowed claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Tadashi WATANABE et al.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

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